

Swoop!

The newsletter of the Gumeracha Football Club



New Season ready to launch

Welcome to the first edition of Swoop, the official newsletter of our Club!

The 2022 season can't come quickly enough. After not quite getting the job done last season, there is a fierce determination to succeed this year. Good numbers at training have been backed up by a high level of enthusiasm and pleasing results during our two trial matches.



Club leaders, Ben Hanna and Jack Parker hit the training track early.

This edition of Swoop is the first in this format. It will supplement the information on our Facebook page and the new website which we will launch in the next month. The intent is to ensure that we keep our players, supporters, sponsors and the wider community informed of what is happening in our great club.

So, if you have any skills in writing, editing, graphics or photography please contact Tim Hanna to let him know how you can contribute.

In this edition we review the season, let you know what we have planned for the centenary of our first premiership, check out the new lights (the best in the Adelaide

Hills!) and see how technology is helping players with concussion.

There's also some history trivia and a look at one of the club's most dedicated volunteers.

See you at the footy.

Start swooping!

From the President – Tony Hannaford

2022 is going to be a big year for the Gumeracha Football Club. Our expectations for on-field success are high and we have recruited several new players to build our list.

We welcome Ethan Lynch, Duane Schultz, James Taylor, Mitchell Trepka, Michael Walters, Dylan Linsell, Zac Graham and Jordan Mientjes. We also welcome back Rob McCard, Matthew Marsden and Daniel Wood who were important contributors to our 2019 premiership.



2022 is the 100th anniversary of the Club's first premiership in the Torrens Valley Football Association. We have a num-

ber of exciting initiatives planned to mark this significant milestone. These include a heritage guernsey,

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GFC 1922
Premiership
Team



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After all, what is a football club? It is grass in the middle, posts at the ends and bricks and mortar. It's the people that give it soul. A football club is a living body.

Alan Killigrew

Legendary Australian Football Coach



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From the President (Continued)

the writing of our club history, naming of a Team of the Century and new merchandise.

I am sure that everybody will have a view on who our best players are over the last 100 years so the announcement will be eagerly awaited.

Two major contributors to our success in recent years have moved on from the committee. Craig Jones (Treasurer) and

Gary Duckett (Senior Football Director) have passed the baton on. I extend a great thank you to both of these stalwarts of the club. Tim Hanna has taken over as Treasurer and is also coordinating the club's historical events.

Please consider volunteering to assist the club. A small contribution in the bar, as a team manager, time keeper or helping with sponsorship will be greatly appreciated.

We have some new sponsors this year including Kerrie Woodards Insurance, JAG Commercial and Logic Finance. Please support all of our sponsors as they help us to meet the demands of a modern sporting club.

Hybrid-Ag, as our major sponsor, has secured naming rights for the oval this year.

I look forward to a successful season.



Coach's Corner – Brett Randell

In his second season as a senior coach, Brett Randell told Swoop that 'I am really looking forward to this season. Our plans for the season are coming together well, spoilt only by cases of COVID-19.'

'We haven't lost too many play-

ers and picked up a couple which was our aim at the end of last season.'

'I don't think we will change too much this season... it will be a process of evolving our style after finishing third. It wasn't the best finish to the

season losing both finals but we will learn from that.'

All the best Brett. We are all right behind you and the team.

Focus on concussion – Club joins new technology trial

Our club is tackling the growing issue of concussion in Australian football, head on. We are one of six in South Australia to trial NeuroFlex's revolutionary concussion management technology.

GFC Trial Coordinator, Tim Hanna, said that the players were very curious about the virtual reality technology and enthusiastically supportive of anything which will lead to improved player wellbeing.

"Concussion is an extremely serious issue. It is important that we support new technology which can help manage concussion, ensure safe return-to-play and mitigate any potential long-term effects on players," he said.

"All players, regardless of where they play, should be able to do so in the safest possible manner," Tim told Swoop.



GFC players Dillon Harding, Dylan Linsell and Remy Detot participate in the trial overseen by ex-Adelaide Crow and NeuroFlex Coordinator, Sean Tasker.

The Magpies joined SANFL clubs Sturt, North Adelaide and Norwood, Adelaide University (SA Footy League) and Port Noarlunga (Southern Football League) to team up with NeuroFlex to improve concussion detection and provide safe return to play.

NeuroFlex's eye-tracking technology uses virtual reality goggles, a laptop and software to detect concussions and their

severity. Players undertook eight different tests at training, each test lasting up to a minute, to determine baseline data.

This data will be compared following any concussions during the season. The NeuroFlex technology complements current AFL adopted concussion protocols.

Switched on club – New lights at the oval

On Friday, 28 January, the former Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, the Hon Corey Wingard MP, accompanied by the now Liberal member for Schubert, Ashton Hurn, switched on new lighting at the Gumeracha Oval. Four new light towers have replaced the old lights which were installed in 1980.

In addition to the financial contribution from the Gumeracha Football Club, the South Australian Government provided \$95,700 towards the project via an Infrastructure Projects grant. This was supported by the Adelaide Hills Council (\$20,000) and the Gumeracha Sporting Club (\$10,000).

Former Gumeracha footballer and club President John O'Dea, whose firm John O'Dea Electrical led the construction and installation



effort, stated that the lighting at an average 150 lux across the oval – the Australian standard for optimal spectator experience for night games – was four times greater than the previous lighting. Particular effort was made to ensure that all parts of the

ground received adequate lighting and that there was no spill into the local neighbourhood.

Gumeracha Football Club President, Tony Hannaford, thanked the State Government for their contribution and commented on the significant enhancement the new lights would make to the football club and the general community. In recent years the oval has been used for emergency support to bushfires and rescue helicopter landings.

Louise McDiarmid, Club Secretary, was thrilled when the grant was approved. She told the Minister that “We feel

incredibly fortunate to live in such a generous community.”

In addition to funding, the project would not have been successfully completed without the support of several local business including John O'Dea Electrical, Electel Resources, P&R Electrical and Mr Steve Neindorf.

The oval has been in its current location since 1905.

The lights have been given a pre-season workout with a very successful hit out in the trial match against Trinity OS. Players from both sides commented very favourably on the improved visibility.

On Saturday, 30 April, we will play Kersbrook under lights as part of the ANZAC round. It should be a great spectacle.



Top: John O'Dea surveying the footings for the new lights. Middle: Former Minister Corey Wingard and Member for Schubert, Ashton Hurn, switch on the new lights. Bottom: A group of players and supporters gather at the switching on ceremony on 28 January.



**As you
train, so
shall you
play!**

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HFL Update on COVID-19 Playing Regulations

The HFL has been working with all clubs to develop a set of agreed protocols which can be applied when one or more clubs player numbers are badly affected by COVID-19.

At a meeting on 6 April, the following key message was passed as part of the revised protocols:

The first priority will be to play the match (both senior and junior matches alike) under the rules of fairplay. This will be a MUST, not a SHALL - and accordingly the COVID Management document has been updated to reflect this change.

In the instance where clubs are unable to satisfy the minimum number requirements for teams then the points will be divided evenly between the two teams. The provision of a "reschedule" of the match has been left in as an option but it is the last resort.

Past Players News Club History



Nigel Jamieson manages the Gumeracha Football Club Past Players 'Association'. For trips down memory lane and to connect with past players from all eras, see the GFC Past Players Facebook page.

Look out for news of past player get togethers, old mens' disease prevention tips and stories which all start with 'Back when I was playing'

Did you know that the Gumeracha Football Club played its first match on the Queen's Birthday weekend in May 1887?

Of course, this was Queen Victoria's birthday, not that of our reigning sovereign, Elizabeth II!

The match was probably played at the old cricket ground at the intersection of what is now John Fisher Avenue and Wellington Street. It was reported that it was '... a very exciting game, [and] resulted in a draw slightly in

favour of the home town, the result being Gumeracha 1 goal 6 behinds; Kensington, 1 goal 2 behinds.' This was a tremendous first-up effort considering '... the majority of [the players] had never played before.'

In those days behinds were not counted, hence the draw comment!

Gum played in a borrowed red and green strip which they quickly realised was not going to woo the local girls. They identified black and white as being much more manly which continues to this day!

Club Personality of the Week – Ian Carpenter



Our groundsman, cook, cleaner and mentor Ian Carpenter back when he first started playing (left) and a more recent photo (right).

When Carpy started playing they used cows and sheep to mow the oval.

And yes Carpy, you were really a 'rake' back in the old days!

Well done for all the work you do at the club! Now, about that personality thing ...

